



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716)843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

August 11, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. CHRISTOHER WOOD, CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, et al. 04-M-1147 (Criminal Complaint)

UNITED STATES v. JEREMIE JONES, CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, et al. 04-M-1146 (Criminal Complaint)

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle, announced today the unsealing of two criminal complaints, charging a total of twenty-three (23) individuals with various felony violations of the federal drug trafficking laws. The criminal complaints represent the culmination of a seventeen-month long investigation by the United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation into a significant drug trafficking organization operating in and around Buffalo, New York.

Criminal Complaint Number 04-M-1146 charges **JEREMIE JONES**, age 22, and **CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS**, age 26, both of Buffalo, New York, and seven others, with engaging in a conspiracy to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute, quantities of cocaine, marijuana, and hydrocodone (which is commonly known as LORTAB), and with using a telephone to commit these drug felonies, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841, 843, and 846. The other individuals named in Criminal Complaint Number 04-M-1146 include the following: **ROBERT HUGHES**, age 23, Tonawanda, New York; **ADAM BERTI**, age 25, Grand Island, New York; **JAMES C. HALL**, age 25, Buffalo, New York; **PETER VINCI**, age 24, Buffalo, New York; **JACK ALESSANDRA**, age 20, Buffalo, New York; **NANCY KUBASIAK**, age 41, Buffalo, New York; and **RICHARD WAWRZYNIAK**, age 27, Tonawanda, New York.

Criminal Complaint Number 04-M-1147 charges **CHRISTOPHER WOOD**, age 22, Buffalo, New York, **WILLIAMS**, and 13 others, with engaging in a conspiracy to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute, quantities of cocaine, marijuana, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone (which is commonly known as Diluadid), illegally acquiring or possessing hydromorphone and hydrocodone, and with a telephone to commit these drug felonies, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841, 843, and 846. In addition, **WOOD**

is charged with distributing a controlled substance to a pregnant individual in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 861(f). The other individuals named in Criminal Complaint Number 04-M-1146 include the following: **MAXIM G. LEVIN**, age 26, Tonawanda, New York; **MIKHAIL ALESHIN**, age 29, East Amherst, New York; **JEREMY KOMASARA**, age 28, Buffalo, New York; **JOSEPH VANEVERY**, age 22, Buffalo, New York; **RYAN KIRBIS**, age 24, Buffalo, New York; **CASIE COLEMAN**, age 19, Buffalo, New York; **BIAGIO PELLIGRA**, age 26, Buffalo, New York; **LARRY BRADDELL**, age 33, Grand Island, New York; **PETER LOMBARDO**, age 61, Kenmore, New York; **MICHAEL DANIELS**, age 46, Buffalo, New York; **RAPHAEL HALL**, age 23, Buffalo, New York; **ALEXANDER POLYAK**, age 28, East Amherst, New York; and **THOMAS KENNEDY**, age 35, Buffalo, New York.

The conspiracy charges carry a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. The charges relating to the use of the telephone to commit these drug felonies carry a maximum penalty of four (4) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. The charge relating to the distribution of a controlled substance to a pregnant individual carries a minimum penalty of one (1) year imprisonment, and a maximum penalty of forty (40) years imprisonment.

All of the above-named defendants have been arrested as of the time of this press release, except for **ALESSANDRA** and **POLYAK**. During the arrests, the investigative team seized four firearms, cocaine, marijuana, and what appears to be a homemade explosive device.

It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime ...is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (**Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)**).

The Indictment was the culmination of an investigation involving the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Peter Ahearn, Special Agent in Charge.